



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter Holders, Principals, and Testing Coordinators

FROM: Dr. Robert J. Franciosi
Deputy Associate Superintendent

DATE: September 20, 2006

SUBJECT: **IMPORTANT - 2006 AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles Timeline**
(REF: RE06010-E)

This memo is to inform you of the updated timeline for the release of AZ LEARNS achievement profiles, and other important information regarding 2006 profiles.

I. New timeline for the release of the AZ LEARNS profiles. Below is the new timeline for the release of AZ LEARNS profiles.

Embargoed release of AZ LEARNS profiles to schools:	September 22, 2006
Open of appeals window for AZ LEARNS profiles:	September 22, 2006
Closing of appeals window for AZ LEARNS profiles:	October 6, 2006
Public release of final AZ LEARNS profiles:	October 25, 2006

II. Appeal of writing scores. Due to anomalies in scoring of the writing portion of the AIMS DPA, schools serving grades three through eight will have the option to appeal the status and growth points earned in their profile. Schools may appeal to be held harmless from any adverse impact by requesting that their profile be recalculated using the total points earned in 2005 for status and growth in writing.

Example. School A serves grades K-5. Below are the status/growth points earned by the school in writing for 2005 and 2006.

Grade	2005	2006
3	3.3	2.3
4	3	3
5	4.7	3.7
Average	3.7	3

Last year the school earned 3.7 points from writing. This year the school is earning 3 points on its preliminary profile. Upon appeal, the school's final profile for 2006 will be calculated using 3.7 points rather than 3.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- This appeal is only available for grades 3-8.
- This appeal will only be granted at the level of total points earned, not for individual grades.

- This appeal is only for the status/growth portion of the formula. Any impact of scoring on the percent of students exceeding has already been accounted for. See V. below.

III. Appeal of AYP determination. A school may appeal its AYP determination if it did not make AYP because of the inclusion of ELL students or the exclusion of students with nonstandard modifications, and not making AYP adversely affected its AZ LEARNS profile.

- If a school appeals the inclusion of ELL students in its AYP determination, the determination will be recalculated with ELL students counting as tested but not included in the AMO calculation.
- Following the flexibility requested by ADE, if a school appeals the exclusion of students tested with alternate accommodations, the determination will be recalculated with such students counting as tested but as not proficient in the AMO calculation.

NOTE: This appeal will only affect AYP as it is included in the AZ LEARNS determination. It will **NOT** change a school's official AYP determination or school improvement status.

IV. New Measure of Academic Progress. This year's profiles will include for the first time a measure of academic progress based on individual student gains on the AIMS test. For more information on this measure please visit the ADE web site at www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/boardinfo/SY05-06/default.asp for a memo describing the new changes and a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

V. New Performance Scale for K-2 Schools. The performance scale for K-2 schools has been modified to reflect the transition from the Stanford 9 to the TerraNova. For more information on this measure please visit the ADE web site at www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/boardinfo/SY05-06/default.asp for a memo describing the new scale.

VI. Exclusion of ELL students. Starting in 2006, the number of years a student has spent in the ELL program is being counted from kindergarten. To retain consistency with previous years, students in third grade who have spent four years or less in the ELL program will not be included in the status/growth and z-score portions of the AZ LEARNS profile.

VII. Z-scores for 2006. The statewide means and standard deviations used to calculate the z-scores for the 2006 profiles are available on the ADE web site at <http://www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/>. These means and standard deviations are based on test scores for 2005 and 2006. The current-year and three-year-average z-scores will be posted in the AZ LEARNS/NCLB application on the common login.

VIII. High School Re-tests. The following rules will be used for the test scores of high school students who retake the test.

- For the status and growth measures, the profile will use the highest of the fall or spring test earned each year by the student at a school.
- For the current-year z-score, the profile will use the highest of the fall or spring test earned each year by the student at a school.
- For the three-year-average z-score, the profile will use the highest score earned at the school.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Research and Evaluation at 602-542-5151 or email achieve@ade.az.gov.